

**To:** McKean, Deborah[mckean.deborah@epa.gov]  
**From:** Rebecca Trager  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 6:14:46 PM  
**Subject:** Media inquiry

Hi Dr. McKean,

I am the US correspondent for Chemistry World, and haven't been able to reach you by desk or cell phone. I am on deadline today writing an article about the recent Gold King Mine accident in Colorado. Below are a few questions that I need answered, and am hoping that you can help on that front. If you can't help, I would greatly appreciate it if you can refer me to the correct person. I can be reached at this email address or by phone at 240-505-1403.

Thanks in advance,

Rebecca

1. I am looking for more information about this recent spill. Is it correct that an EPA team used heavy equipment to dig into a dam at the Gold King Mine site, planning to install a drain pipe, but the volume of water and the dam's makeup of soil and not rock led to a situation where zinc, iron and contaminants entered the channel that leads to the nearby creek?
2. Can you specify what exactly has spilled into the river as a result of this incident, and at what quantities? Is it really 3 million gallons spilled in Colorado's water ways, whereas the original EPA estimate was 1 million gallons?
3. How long will the EPA cleanup efforts take? I understand that an EPA-supervised crew is trying to enter the mine to pump out and treat the water caused the spill. Can you confirm that and tell me more about current efforts?

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